

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 SS-15

USIA-15 PRS-01 /051 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:GBHIGH:KK

APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:JRBURKE

----- 070222

R 220102Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

UNCLAS STATE 257835

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: THANKSGIVING DAY PROCLAMATION

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE THANKSGIVING DAY
PROCLAMATION ISSUED NOVEMBER 11 BY PRESIDENT FORD:

2. BEGIN TEXT. AMERICA AND THE WORLD HAVE CHANGED
ENORMOUSLY SINCE THE FIRST THANKSGIVING 353 YEARS AGO.
FROM A TINY COASTAL ENCLAVE ON AN UNTAMED CONTINENT, WE
HAVE GROWN INTO THE MIGHTIEST, FREEST NATION IN HUMAN
HISTORY. A CIVILIZATION WHOSE FARTHEST REACH WAS ONCE
THE EARTH'S UNCHARTED SEAS HAS NOW PLUMBED THE SECRETS
OF OUTER SPACE.

3. BUT THE FUNDAMENTAL MEANING OF THANKSGIVING STILL
REMAINS THE SAME. IT IS A TIME WHEN THE DIFFERENCES OF
A DIVERSE PEOPLE ARE FORGOTTEN AND ALL AMERICANS JOIN IN
GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR THE BLESSINGS WE SHARE -- THE
BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM, OPPORTUNITY AND ABUNDANCE THAT MAKE
AMERICA SO UNIQUE.

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4. THIS YEAR, IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY, WE STILL FACE

SERIOUS PROBLEMS AND MASSIVE CHALLENGES. IN GIVING THANKS FOR THE MANY THINGS WE HOLD DEAR, LET US ALSO PRAY FOR THE COURAGE, RESOURCEFULNESS AND SENSE OF PURPOSE WE WILL NEED TO CONTINUE AMERICA'S SAGA OF PROGRESS, AND TO BE WORTHY HEIRS OF THE PILGRIM SPIRIT. MAY WE, TOO, FIND THE STRENGTH AND VISION TO LEAVE BEHIND US A BETTER WORLD, AND AN EXAMPLE THAT WILL INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO NEW ACHIEVEMENTS.

5. NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 6103 OF TITLE 5 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1974, AS A DAY OF NATIONAL THANKSGIVING.

6. I CALL UPON ALL AMERICANS TO GATHER TOGETHER IN HOMES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THIS DATE, TO JOIN IN OFFERING GRATITUDE FOR THE COUNTLESS BLESSINGS OUR PEOPLE ENJOY, AND TO SHARE WITH THE ELDERLY AND THE UNFORTUNATE THIS SPECIAL DAY THAT BRINGS US ALL CLOSER TOGETHER.

7. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND THIS ELEVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR, AND OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-NINTH.

8. GERALD R. FORD. END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HOLIDAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE257835
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GBHIGH:KK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740339-0054
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741119/aaaaapxz.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 NOV 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THANKSGIVING DAY PROCLAMATION
TAGS: SOPN
To: NASSAU
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005